

REMARKS

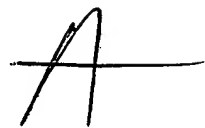
Claims 36 to 90, 96 to 109, 117, 118 and 123 to 125 are pending in the application, with Claims 36, 49, 77, 96 and 117 having been amended, and with Claim 125 having been added herein. Claims 36, 49, 62, 72, 77, 80, 96, 99, 117, 123 and 125 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 62 to 76, 80 to 86, 99 to 105, 123 and 124 are allowed, and that Claims 39 to 48, 52 to 61, 78, 79, 87 to 90, 97, 98 and 106 to 109 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 36 to 38, 49 to 51, 77, 96, 117 and 118 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over "Developing Calendar Visualizers for the Information Visualizer" (Mackinlay). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 36 is directed to a hierarchical data display method for displaying hierarchically-managed data items, the method including dividing a display area into an area in which a data icon representing a data item belonging to one level is displayed, and an area in which a data icon representing a data item belonging to a child level is displayed, and displaying the data icons with a size varied depending on a hierarchical depth and at a position so that a hierarchical relation between the data icons is represented as a nesting shape.

In this manner, the display of the present invention of amended independent Claim 36 represents the data icons with a different size depending on a hierarchical depth, and represents the hierarchical relation between the data icons as a nesting shape.



Accordingly, data icons are displayed as belonging to different levels. For example, in Figure 17 of the application, data icon R-1 is displayed in root area 801, data icon A-1, two data icons B-1 and B-2, or data icon C-1 and two grandchild areas D and E are respectively displayed in three child areas A, B and C, and data icon D-1 or two data icons E-1 and E2 are respectively displayed in two grandchild areas D and E. The nesting shape in which the hierarchical relation between the data icons is represented is in the form of a nest of tables or boxes as shown in Figure 17.

The applied art, namely Mackinlay, is not seen to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of amended independent Claim 36, particularly with respect to displaying the data icons with a size varied depending on a hierarchical depth and at a position so that a hierarchical relation between the data icons is represented as a nesting shape.

Mackinlay is seen to be generally directed to a hierarchical structure of calendars which is represented as a "spiral calendar" in an order of year, month, week and day calendars, and wherein the size of the day calendar is the largest and the size of the year calendar is the smallest. (Mackinlay, pp. 109-111). Mackinlay is seen to display the hierarchical structure of calendars so that the day calendar is shown as enlarged using a truncated pyramid from a one of the days in the week calendar. However, Mackinlay is not seen to disclose or suggest to represent a hierarchical structure of calendars in a nesting shape, as in the present invention.

It is asserted in the Office Action that Figure 3 of Mackinlay shows that icon size is decreased and made simpler as hierarchical depth of the icon increases. Applicants disagree with this reading of Mackinlay. Figure 3 of Mackinlay is seen to show that, as the hierarchical depth of the icon increases, icon size is increased and the icon is

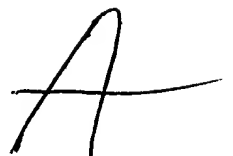
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made more complex. This is because the day is seen to be the deepest level and the year is seen to be the root level in the hierarchical structure of calendars.

Accordingly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. Amended independent Claim 36 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, pending amended independent Claims 49, 77, 96 and 117 are directed to browser system, editing method, editing system, and computer-program product embodiments of the invention which include similar features as those described above with respect to amended independent Claim 36, and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other pending claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.



Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below - listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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